

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 1996 020818Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----029637 020821Z /17
O 020811Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2297
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1996

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, EG, IS, XF
SUBJECT: DATE OF CAIRO PREPARATORY CONFERENCE

REF: (A)TEL AVIV 10059, (B)STATE 287623, (C)CAIRO 19764

1. AT OFFICIAL DINNER FOR VISITING TURKISH FONMIN LAST NIGHT, I HAD BRIEF OPPORTUNITY DISCUSS WITH ACTING FONMIN BOUTROS GHALI DATE OF CAIRO CONFERENCE. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT TAKEN ABACK WHEN DECEMBER 13 DATE WAS PUBLICLY MENTIONED BY US. HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THAT DATE HAD COME UP. HE WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT APPEAR PUBLICLY AS AN AMERICAN-DICTATED DATE. IN ANY CASE, BEFORE FINALLY FIXING A DATE, HE WANTED TO ALLOW MORE TIME FOR RESPONSES TO BE RECEIVED. HE HAD EARLIER IN THE DAY TOLD THE PRESS, IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE DECEMBER 13 DATE, THAT NO DATE HAD YET BEEN FIXED, BUT THAT GOE ENVISAGES THE CONFERENCE WILL CONVENE SOMETIME BETWEEN DECEMBER 10 AND 15.

2. TOLD HIM OF MY TALK OF LAST TUESDAY EVENING WITH VP MUBARAK TO ASK FOR MORE TIME TO PREPARE FOR CONFERENCE. IN RESPONSE THAT REQUEST, SADAT SENT BACK WORD THAT DECEMBER 10 OR EVEN THREE OR FOUR DAYS LATER WOULD BE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 1996 020818Z

SATISFACTORY. IT WAS ON THIS BASIS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER HAD MENTIONED THE LIKELIHOOD THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD CONVENE "ABOUT DECEMBER 13." YESTERDAY VP MUBARAK HAD TOLD ME THAT "DECEMBER 13" DATE MENTIONED BY PRESIDENT CARTER WAS AGREEABLE. AS GHALI DOUBTLESS KNEW, I HAD BEEN TRYING TO SEE HIM ALL WEEK IN ORDER TO BRIEF HIM ON THESE EXCHANGES, BUT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO GET AN APPOINTMENT.

3. GHALI APOLOGIZED FOR NOT HAVING SEEN ME EARLIER, CLAIMING HIS OFFICE STAFF HAD NOT TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR CALLS. HE ASKED THAT WE AGREE TO SAY NO MORE ABOUT ANY DECEMBER 13 DATE UNTIL GOE ACTUALLY ANNOUNCES IT. SO FAR AS HE WAS CONCERNED, HOWEVER, IF THE VP INDICATED A DECEMBER 13 DATE WAS AGREEABLE, HE WOULD, OF COURSE, ACCEPT THIS. HE HAD NO OBJECTION IF, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES, WE THINK IN TERMS OF A DECEMBER 13 CONVENING DATE, NOR DID HE HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO OUR APPRISING THE ISRAELIS, ON A STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL BASIS, OF THIS DATE.

4. REF B RECEIVED THIS MORNING. I DOUBT THAT IT MAKES ANY DIFFERENCE TO GOE WHETHER CONVENING DATE IS DECEMBER 13 OR 14. AM SEEING GHALI LATER THIS MORNING FOR A LONGER MEETING AND WILL AT THAT TIME RAISE WITH HIM OUR PREFERENCE FOR DECEMBER 14 DATE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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